

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

Present: **President**, Gary Goren; **Vice President**, Mike Beaulac; **Treasurer**, Sue Stender; Claudia Chapman; Jim Conboy; Tuffy Cross; Dan Florip; Jon Gougeon; Jim Johnson; Michelle Miller; Sara Winter and Janet Young

Absent: **Secretary**, Ashley Peterson; Julie Austin and Judy Suszek

Guests: Claire Wilson Kostelie, representing Alpena Agency Insurance

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Gary Goren. New Board Member, Jon Gougeon, was welcomed.

Guest Presentation: Claire Wilson Kostelie reviewed a proposal for a comprehensive insurance package, which if accepted would change insurance carriers from Lappan Insurance to Alpena Agency. Claire will check into the cost change to increase the deductible to \$5,000 and report back to ED Chris Witulski. The proposal would mean an approximate \$2,000 savings annually. No decisions were made on this proposal.

Minutes: Janet Young moved to accept the March 2023 Minutes, supported by Jim Conboy. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Stender reported on the March 2023 financials. Filed as presented.

Reports to the Board:

Director's Report—filed with Minutes: ED Witulski highlighted the progress on the new history wing and reviewed the timeline—she reported confirmation of a \$200,000 donation, which brings us to \$337,000 away from the goal of \$1,500,000. She also highlighted there wasn't any asbestos in the area, which makes it a lot easier and less expensive to complete the renovation. May 9 will be the first presentation of the proposed schematics from Split Rock Designs for the new area. She reported that she had just learned that Jonathan will resign his position as Planetarium Director to take a similar position in California.

Committees:

Ad Hoc Committees:

Governance: Judy Suszek has resigned as chair of this committee and Dan Florip accepted the position. Brain Bartosh will be submitting his resume to become a board member.

Kat V/Chinook Projects: Jim Johnson reported that only one bid came in for the building to house the Chinook and it was over \$400,000, which is too high for our budget. He and ED Witulski are in the process of reaching out to other contractors, hoping for a lower bid. Tuffy Cross reported that both boats are open for the season and the first tours are scheduled for April 19 and April 21. The Michigan Arts and Cultural Council will tour the exhibits on April 21.

Discover Northeast Michigan History: see Director's Report

Fine Arts Committee: The Wilson Gallery is set until October and the Trelfa Gallery hosts a NEMAG exhibit April 23 through July 23.

Collections Committee: Claudia Chapman made a motion to accept a list of items, attached, into the Museum's permanent collection, supported by Jim Johnson. All ayes. Motion carried. Claudia Chapman made a motion to deaccession a list of items, attached, from the Museum's permanent collection, supported by Jim Conboy. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Revise Strategic Plan: This is a work in progress and will be completed by 2024 for the accreditation process.

Website Bids: Bids are available for review—this is not a pressing issue.

Money Market Account: Jim Conboy is in the process of making sure all funds are insured

New Business:

Roof Repairs: Jim Johnson made a motion to pay for roof repairs up to \$17,000, to include both rebuilding drains and repairing membrane, including leaks with funds to come from the Infinex Money Market Account, supported by Jon Gougeon. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourn: meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Miller